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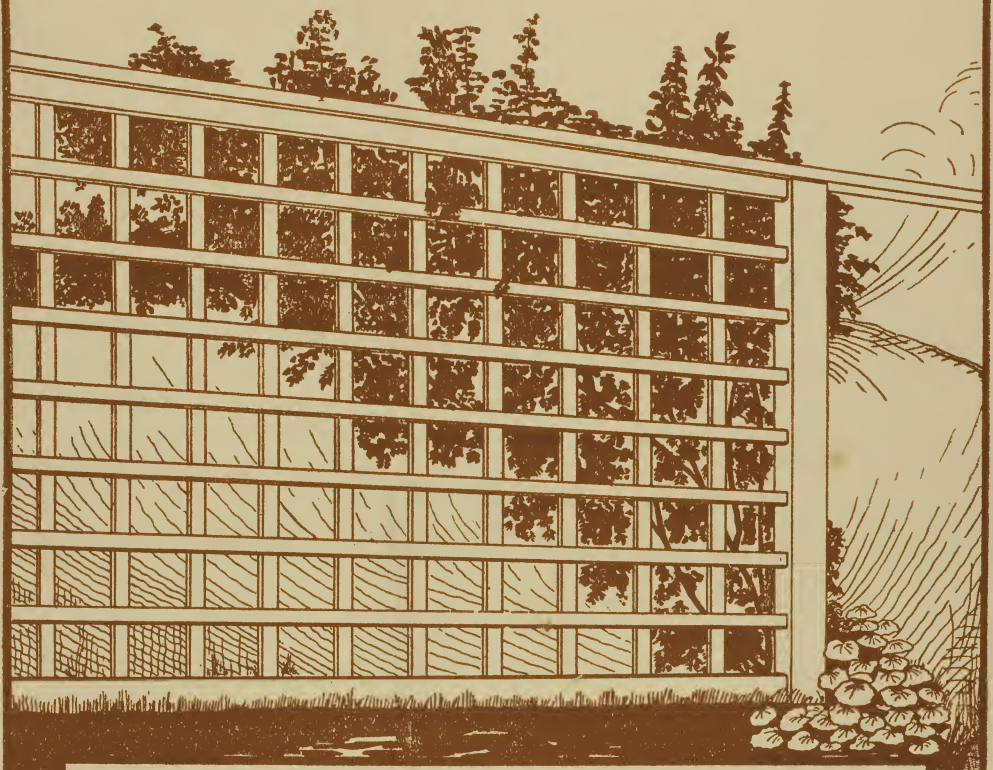

IN THIS NUMBER

CONIFERS IN BALBOA PARK
CHRYSANTHEMUMS
PROTECT OUR HOLLY BUSHES
BEGONIA SEED SOWING
SHRUBS
LATHHOUSE

NOV. 1922 TEN CENTS

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The California Garden

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Vol. 14 POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, NOV. 1922 No. 5

BALBOA PARK NOTES

Conifers by John G. Morley

Coniferous trees and shrubs will compose the articles in this and the next two issues of the magazine. The varieties enumbered will be those that thrive in Southern California, in the parks and gardens.

Nearly all coniferous trees and shrubs are evergreen, and they are called coniferous because they bear cones, within which are the seeds for reproduction. The coniferous family is the largest and most diversified of all the various families of trees and shrubs, and native varities are found in almost every country on the globe, and are recognized as the most beautiful of all families of Arboriculture.

The pine trees are the true conifers. California has several varities that are among the most beautifl in horticulture, a few of which will be included in this article as they have thrived when planted in suitable locations.

Pines as a rule will grow in poor soil under rocky conditions, as many may have noticed when in the pine forests. You will see the roots growing in the interstices of the rocks, this condition may be noticed by visitors to our famous Torrey Pines Park, where the trees grow in the sandstone which comprises a large area of that park. This variety will be the first described on the list.

Pinus Torreyana (Torrey Pine) is a native of San Diego county and grows within the City Limits at Torrey Pines Park, on the Coast Highway to Los Angeles.

It grows readily from seed and when planted away from the Coast, is a beautiful tree,—is very symmetrical and attains a height of sixty feet. There are about fifteen hundred trees growing in Balboa Park, most of them between Sixth Street and Cabrillo Canyon, north of Quince Street. Some of the trees have been planted twenty years or more, and one thousand trees were planted on the west slope of Cabrillo Canyon in the spring of 1912, and have made wonderful growth. The largest single specimen in the park is adjacent to the West boulevard, and was planted by Miss K. O. Sessions when she had her nursery in Balboa Park. This is one of the finest Torrey Pines in existence.

Besides having been planted extensively in this section, several thousand trees have been planted in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and San Francisco,—notably in Golden Gate Park.

The seeds of this variety are large, about the size of the pinnon pine,—the needles are four to six inches long and are used extensively for making pine needle baskets.

As this variety is of such limited extent, and is growing in its native habitat, where thousands of people stop during the year to admire the scenic beauty of the surrounding country and the ocean view, it has become necessary to provide a caretaker with police authority to protect the trees from destruction, and it behooves the residents of San Diego to co-operate in every way possible to assist the Park Department in their preservation.

Pinus Radiata, the popular name is Pinus Insignis or Monterey Pine. This variety is a native of California along the Coast in Monterey County, and has been planted in parks and gardens in California more extensively than any other variety.

It is a very beautiful tree when young and up to ten year's growth, after which it has a tendency, during certain times of the year, to take on a brownish or burnt color, and at the present time is not so extensively planted as in former years. Visitors to Balboa Park will be able to note this condition. There are plantings of this variety on Sixth Street near Upas, Sixth and Date Streets, Eighth and Date and at Golden Hill.

Pinus Muricata (Prickley Cone Pine) is a native of California,—a handsome tree, with regular pyramidal head. It is a slower growing variety than either the Monterey or Torrey Pine. It grows more dense and has beautiful dark green needles. The cones when ripe remain closed for several years after maturity, not letting the seeds fall as quickly as many other varities. There are about five hundred trees planted in Balboa Park,—the largest group is on the west slope of Cabrillo Canyon, south of Cabrillo Bridge. This variety can be recommended for park or garden planting.

Pinus Jeffreyi (Jeffrey's Pine) is a native

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

of California and as far north as Oregon. It is one of the most beautiful of the pines,—this Variety has been extensively planted in the central and northern part of the state, however, it grows well in Southern California. Unlike many of the California pines, it is hardy as far north as Massachusetts. The cones are large, from six to twelve inches long, and the needles from five to eight inches. This variety deserves to be more extensively planted in our parks and gardens.

Pinus Coulteri (Pitch Pine) a native of California, a very beautiful tree. It is a native of San Diego county and counties farther north. It has been planted in parks and estates in Southern California and has proven to be one of the best, and is very interesting owing to its large cones, which are from nine to fourteen inches long. This variety is not hardy in northern states.

Pinus Halepensis (Aleppo Pine) a native of the Mediterranean coast regions. This variety has been extensively planted in California for its drouth resisting qualities. It is not a handsome tree,—the foliage is short with slender branches. However, it is one of the hardiest pines for planting along our coastal regions. There are about one thousand trees in Balboa Park,—the oldest trees are north of Quince Street, near Sixth, and the most extensive planting on a hill near Eighth and Date Streets.

Pinus Canariensis (Canary Island Pine-. This variety is a native of the Canary Islands, and is one of the most beautiful of all the pines for planting in Southern California in our parks and gardens. It is a very tender tree and will not withstand cold frosty weather. Young trees planted in Balboa Park were killed during the severe frost of 1913.

This variety is very symmetrical,—the foliage is slender and pendulous, and is a rapid grower. It has been very extensively planted in Southern California, and there are some very fine specimens in Balboa Park, on the west side, opposite Redwood and Thorn Streets. There are some extra fine specimens in the grounds of Mr. George W. Marston.

Pinus Excelsa, a very beautiful tree of pyramidal growth,—does not grow fast, and is a tree suitable for small gardens. There are several planted near the aviary at Sixth and Juniper Streets, in Balboa Park, and several hundred nice young trees in the park nursery, ready for planting out.

Pinus Pines, (Stone Pine) a tender pine which will not stand severe frost,—very beautiful with a wide spreading flat topped head. This variety is extensively planted in Southern California, a few are growing in Balboa Park. The tree is of slow growth and of picturesque habit. In Southern Europe, it is chiefly grown for the edible seeds.

Libocedrus Decurreus, (Incense Cedar) one of the most beautiful of the coniferous trees. It is a native of California, and may be seen growing in the mountains at Laguna and in the Cuyamacas, also on other ranges in San Diego county, and in Oregon and Nevada. It is an ornamental tree with handsome foliage, attaining a height of from one hundred to two hundred feet. This tree is extensively planted in California, also in other states and countries where the cold is not too severe.

It is a valuable park tree, also for parkway and avenue planting, and is one of our most beautiful and useful trees, producing very fine timber of high quality. It needs good, deep, loamy soil. A few trees are growing in Balboa Park, but do not thrive, owing to soil conditions.

Cedrus Deodora, (Himalayan Cedar) the most popular of all the conifers planted in Southern California. This tree is a native of the Himalaya Mountains in India and is recognized as one of the most beautiful for planting in parks, gardens, avenues and parkways where climate conditions are suitable.

The foliage is a dark bluish green with long pendulous branches,—a tree of columnar habit, attaining a height of one hundred fifty feet. The trees have been extensively planted in Balboa Park, nearly two thousand trees altogether. The largest groups are near the south end of the park, between Cabrillo Canyon and West boulevard. One of the finest avenues in California planted with Cedrus Deodora is at Altadena. They are about thirty-five years old and are very beautiful. Next to pines, they have been planted more extensively than any other coifer in California parks and gardens.

Cedrus Atlantica, a very beautiful cedar from North Africa, of upright growth, more rigid than Cedrus Deodora, of slower growth, and not as extensively planted. Cedrus Atlantica Glauca is a type of the foregoing, with foliage of a silvery glaucous hue, and is a very fine variety to plant for single specimens, or in groups of three to five.

Cedrus Libani, (Cedar of Lebanon) a large tree with wide spreading horizontal branches, native of the mountains of Asia Minor. It grows well in California and is extensively planted in parks. There are a few trees in Balboa Park, near Sixth and Juniper Streets. This tree should only be planted singly or in groups of from three to five for landscape effect.

Sequoia Sempervirens (California Redwood). The redwood is one of the most beautiful as well the most useful of all the conifers.

As an evergreen for planting, it is one of the best, is ornamental and has beautiful foliage,—is grown and planted extensively in parks in California, and also in Europe, especially in England. In Balboa Park there is a planting of five hundred trees on a knoll just south of Quince Street hill grade. on the west slope of Cabrillo Canyon. This variety

is the redwood of commerce, and California's most valuable timber tree.

Sequoia Gigantea (California Big Tree). California's famous tree attains a height from one hundred fifty to three hundred twenty-five feet. It does not grow as well in Southern California as the preceding variety, and is not planted as extensively. A few have been planted in Balboa Park, but do not thrive.

The history of the redwoods is so well known that reference to same in this article would be superflous.

In the next issue other varieties of coniferous trees will be recommended that have proven useful for landscape planting, and the January issue will be about coniferous evergreen shrubs.

Those who have not planted their fall bulbs should do so as soon as possible. The cool condition of the soil at present is fine for good root action, and will produce better flowers in the spring.

The sowing of winter annuals is getting late. Sweet peas for early spring may be sown now, with succession every thirty days until March and April for the summer flowering varieties.

EARLY-FLOWERING CHRYSANTHEMUMS FOR OUTDOOR GARDENS

The chrysanthemum, the Autumn Queen is here again in all her multi-colored gowns, typifying the fall festival season. Flowers may come and flowers may go, but the lovely chysanthemum is gaining a following and popularity that is the envy of all flower kind in the fall of the year, if one may judge from the record breaking attendance at the 21st annual chrysanthemum show held by the United States Department of Agriculture, October 29 to November 5, in the department greenhouses in Washington. The popularity of these golden, crimson, bronze, and many colored balls of beauty is enhanced by the timeliness of their advent before the public in their full glory—a time when the great mass of flowers of spring and summer have outlived their gala days. No football game is complete without the picturesque bits of color of the chrysanthemums dotting the mass in the grandstands with their brilliant and restful colors. They add to the brightness and cheer at Christmas events and holiday festivities. The beautiful chrysanthemum is sumpreme among its floral companions at this time of the year, and best of all is available to rich and poor alike, for it comes into perfection at a period of the year when but few flowers can be obtained to fill its place at such a small outlay.

For a long time the chrysanthemum has been grown in the open air in the South, and has found favor in the gardens of the amateur as well as around the cabins of the cottager, but because the first light freezes hurt the flowers, it is difficult to bring into bloom in the country of shorter seasons. The Department of Agriculture has been perfecting and establishing a number of earlier flowering varieties of more hardiness for growth in Northern countries. New varieties are secured and developed by selecting the most suitable plants produced from seed. Once a variety has been established and recognized as having these desirable characteristics it is perpetuated or grown year after year from cuttings made from the shoots that spring up from the roots of the plant. Some 65 new varieties of the earlier-flowering type have been selected from a total of 10,000 seedlings for further tests at the department's Arlington gardens. It is possible to cross pollinate by hand so that two particularly desirable varieties may be mated, but the department in the main has followed the natural scheme of allowing the flowers to be pollinated by the bees.

The chrysanthemum is a home flower as well as a commercial one, and may be grown by any one who will devote a little time and thought to its culture. The beautiful effects attained in garden borders and clusters around the house when they come into bloom in the fall fully justify the effort and labor expended through the summer in caring for the plants.

Contrary to ideas derived by many people from visits to greenhouses and florist's shops, it is not necessary to have the use of a greenhouse and a great space of ground to devote to the growing of chrysanthemums, but it is well for the amateur to stick to the small-flowered, hardy varieties, known as "pompons" or "artemisias." They are the cheapest and most easily grown of all the different types, and will give a bright and colorful display in the fall when practically every other flower has been destroyed by frost. If they are planted where they receive some protection from the wind and weather, near buildings or sheltered by trees, the season of bloom will be lengthened.

While some seasons of the year are more favorable than others for making a start in the practical work of growing chrysanthemums, there is no time when something may not be done toward getting ready. The soil which they are to occupy should be the first consideration for the outdoor growers. During the fall or before freezing, if the soil where the plants are to be grown is not of the right physical texture, it is well to secure some suitable earth or soil and place it over the space to be used. A clay loam is generally considered the proper soil, but should not be a stiff, heavy clay. Muck. sandy or gravelly soils are not so good. Soil taken from the top three or four inches of a pasture field may be spread over the garden and covered with a thick layer of manure. The weathering action of the freezing and frosts

will improve the mechanical quality of the soil through the winter months and it will be ready for the plants in the spring.

Commercial growers propagate the plants in several ways. The amateur will find it advisable and safer as well as the least expensive process to secure rooted cuttings in the spring from some reliable greenhouse for transplanting in the soil prepared in the fall. The choice of varieties is important if it is desirable to market them. Although there are over 3,000 varieties listed, and new ones being developed each year, those of solid colors such as white, pink, red, crimson, gold, bronze or yellow are more apt to be favored by a great number of customers than those of dirty, washy color. which are neither white, red or pink nor any other shade.

THE FIRST CHRYSANTHEMUM AFTERNOON

The Floral Association has always wanted to inaugurate more Floral exhibits than two a year in order to catch the tremendous variety of blooms grown in this vicinity each at its best or nearly so, and last month it experimented with what it was pleased to term a Chrysanthemum afternoon. The event was held in Balboa Park, where else could it be, in the space in front of the Horticultural Building over to the right. That effort to locate it will show the necessity of a name. It has been called the Court of Honor and lately that of Greek Court has been suggested but neither are suggestive of location and it is not properly a court but a very fair attempt at a Loggia so why not make it Loggia Laguna. Names are rather important as a youngster called Tommy Gotobed could tell you, but they are hardly locative in most cases; take the proposed Fremont Drive to Ocean Beach which if called the Pittering Pat would have been more advertising, the thing Ocean Beach wanted it is presumed. To return to the Mums shown in Loggia Laguna, the display was not large but showed the reviving interest in this flower which the Dahlia craze has suppressed for years. The two dont really conflict the Dahlia reaches perfection in August and the Chrysanthemum in October.

An exhibit by Mr. Erskine J. Campbell of Point Loma was the star. It included excellent large blooms of well known show varieties such as William Turner and Good Gracious white, Yellow Pocket and Crimson Pocket and a newer crushed strawberry W. Mease but the smaller sorts were perfectly delightful, mostly raised from seed from England, the delicate singles like aristocratic daisies were in white, yellow, buff, orange, lavender and cerise and a small quilled strawberry with foliage like golden pyrethrum was most interesting also a spidery seedling wanting a name, how would Arachne do? This exhibit was awarded the four Dahlia tubers donated by Miss Mould, and the second award of two tubers went to Miss Edith Gait of Coronado who showed quite an extensive selection in variety from small Pompoms up.

Miss Mould herself had a table of the larger kinds in small but select variety.

Rosecroft had a delightful table of Pompoms, nineteen sorts with attractive labels.

Among the professionals the Cushman Gardens had generous big bunches of a large number of Pompoms and they also showed some Dahlias which allowed one of the five hundred visitors to be mildly sarcastic by enquiring if they were Chrysanthemums and being told, No! they are dahlias, to reply, Oh I see Dahlias at a Chrysanthemum show. So next time the Dahlias must stop at home or ought the visitor to do so?

The Rosecourt Company brought a large pot of a small pink semi-single called Buckingham very pleasing and some huge yellows donating them all to be sold for the benefit of the association and the rest of the flowers went to the hospitals.

This try out was a distinct success and probably will lead to a regular MUM show next year. The professionals asked if such a show were contemplated to be informed in time what the classes would be so they could grow for the show, they may rest assured this information will be forthcoming.

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The Nov. & Dec. Gardens

The time has come for our Dahlias to go into winter quarters, as it is only in very light soil with exceptionally good drainage on high ground that it is safe to leave tubers in the ground through the winter, even then it is a risk if last season's weather is repeated.

It is equally unsafe in Southern California to put them in a cellar or under the house uncovered, they are likely to dry out and die or only produce dwarf plants next year.

The plants should be carefully labeled now to be ready to take up as soon as possible when the next rain comes. When so doing all the top dirt shoud be removed so that when they are raised there is no weight on them to break off the tubers, then lift them gently with a fork taking care to loosen the dirt round first; leave them on the ground a few days to dry off then put them in boxes and entirely cover them with dry dirt. The main stem should not be cut closer than ten or twelve inches from the crown, at this juncture this helps to keep the moisture in them. Put the boxes in a dry place until March or April when it is time to see about cutting them up.

Emily T. Mould
Nov 15th, 1922

This For Ants

If ants infest the house or garden they can be successfully exterminated by the use of the following mixture, which however, must be used with the greatest care, as it is a deadly poison to both human beings and domestic animals.

A small amount put into a tightly covered can (in which several nail holes have been made near the top) and placed in close proxeinity to the ants nest, or nailed to a tress which is infested, will in a few weeks be the means of killing the whole colony.

Mix 1 pound of sugar with 1 quart of hot water, add ¼ of an ounce of arsenate of soda.

I should advise mixing only half this amount, unless you have a great many ants.

With the warmth of the sun for pardon
And the song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer to God in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.
—Sir Henry Wotton.

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NOVEMBER GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

Operations in the vegetable garden this month should be along the same lines as those pursued in October, with the added incentive of rain just starting this morning, producing that wonderful growing feeling out of doors which is hard to resist and which sort of compels one to get out and dig.

Continue to plant all hardy winter vegetables and roots, and remember that now the rains have started you will have to be more alert in hoeing out weeds as soon as they start. Do not allow them to grow and use up the plant foods in the soil.

It is good to hear of "clean up week" again and on the supposition that a good many vacant lots and spacers will be cleared of all loose rubish, it seems apropos to suggest that these lots and spaces can very easily be converted into beauty spots by planting them with certain kinds of easily raised flower seeds for winter and spring blooming. Shortly before or at the time our winter rains begin is the best time to start the vacant lot flower garden, altho flower seeds suitable for this sort of work can be planted as late as the middle of February, but of course planting as late as that shortens the blooming season a good deal.

Where possible to do so it is best to plough the land and work the surface down to a fine seed bed after which just broadcast your seed and rake it lightly over. On plots where you are depending altogether on the rains to take care of your garden, unless the soil is very light or has been partially stirred during the summer, you will probably have to wait until after the first good rain before you can plough or dig your soil. But in many cases you can reach the adjoining bit of vacant land by attaching your own garden hose to the hydrant in your garden nearest said piece of land, or if this will not do the trick invest in an extra 25 ft of hose and be rewarded by having a flower garden calling for little care, instead of an unsightly mass of weeds adjoining your home. With normal rains the flower seeds mentioned below will need little if any extra watering, and most of them will resow themselves and come up again the following year.

California Poppies and a good Wild Flower mixture are fine for this purpose and, in cultivated flowers the double orange Calendula or Dwarf Marigold, Nasturtiums, African

Continued on page 7

The California Garden

A. D. Robinson, Editor
Office, Rosecroft, Point Loma, Cal.
Mrs. Sidney E. Mayer, Associate Editor
3128 Laurel, San Diego.

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EDITORIALLY

Elsewhere in the California Garden a brief extract from the law of the State designed to protect our native Holly or Toyon from ruthless destruction is given.. This law was passed mainly through the efforts of the Wildflower Conservation League a couple of years ago and though it has done something, this crown of our shrubbery in December is rapidly disappearing, the auto will spell its death unless we all unite in protecting it, first from ourselves and then from others.

Protection of our game was not efficient till it was made illegal to sell it and it may be necessary to put our Christmas Holly in the same class.

On a recent trip not far from the city we saw the Holly more wonderful than ever before, it is there mainly because the road is a fierce proposition and we pray that it may rain like the dickens and make it worse, but tempering this fear for the wild bushes was an elation at passing a cultivated hedge of it bordering the road, these cultivated bushes were extremely vigorous with enormous bunches of berries and it suggested that a movement might be started for the cultivation of our native Holly, much might be done through the schools and the Park could try it out in that desecrated canyon on Sixth Street. Why not inaugurate a "Plant a Toyon" drive, now is the time to get in seed and all the berries sold on our streets are seed. This is not sentimentalism but good business and we have not had a drive since last month.

We also made El Monte Oaks on this trip and picked up another disgust; our favorite oak had been deep carved with initials apparently N. E. N. twice and also Lee N. and along a big limb Jim Taylor, and senseless hacking was in evidence elsewhere. We don't know anything about the individuals who elected thus to emblazon their senselessness not to use a harsher term but a mild branding of some form would seem to be in order. A Mikado who could make the punishment fit the crime is often wanted, but we have to admit the danger from his coming, we might be planted in a flower pot and tied to a stake.

OCTOBER MEETING

The regular monthly meeting for October was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Blochman, Tuesday the 17th, at 7:30 P. M.

The meeting was opened with a musical number by Miss Selma Davidson.

The subject for the evening, "Seasonal Work and Planting", was then taken up by Mrs. C. J. Henry. of the San Diego Seed Store.

After her talk the members of the club were permitted to ask questions of her along the lines of the subject. Some very fine narcissus bulbs were then distributed to all the members by Mr. C. J. Henry from the San Diego Seed Store.

The subject of Chrysanthemum growing was then taken up, it was decided to hold a Chrysanthemum Display in Balboa Park near the lath house Oct. 31, at 2:30 P. M.

The meeting was then closed with another musical number by Miss Selma Davidson.

APPRECIATION FROM THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY

The following is an extract from a renewal letter from the author of so many delightful flower books, C. F. Saunders, and the California Garden publishes it with a warm feeling in the right region;

"I have a habit of reading magazine covers as well as their insides, and if I understand the abbreviations after my name on the CALIFORNIA GARDEN, my subscription expired last month. As it is always a welcome visitor in our household I have pleasure in enclosing a check for the coming year of it."

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting for November will be held the evening of November 23rd with Mr. and Mrs. Straus, 4179 Palmetto Way, this is the street before reaching the nursery of K. O. Sessions and Miss Sessions will introduce the subject of the evening, "Shrubs".

DECEMBER MEETING

There will be no regular December Meeting but an afternoon devoted to a showing of Berried Shrubs and Poinsettias in the Loggia to the right of the lagoon in Balboa Park the first Tuesday in December the Fifth. The Park will make an extensive display and every one is urged to bring specimens.

PROTECT OUR CALIFORNIA HOLLY

Numerous complaints of ruthless mutilation of our California Holly bushes reach the California Garden almost every day and it is again called to the attention of one and all that it is an offense against the law of the state to pluck holly on public ground and on private land without the consent of the owner.

Here is the Law:

A.: Section 384 of the penal code, passed upon at the 1921 session of the state legislature states that "Any person, firm or corporation is guilty of a misdemeanor who mutilates or destroys any toyon or Christmas red berry tree growing on public or private land, unless, in case of private land, the owner gives his consent thereto."

LOS ANGELES HEARD FROM

And this from Los Angeles by Ernest Braunton in the Times Garden Beautiful Section, OH BOY! as the girls say:

The Garden Beautiful Editor wandered down as far as San Diego recently, to judge the horticultural exhibits at the county fair with such highly competent horticulturists as Prof. Geo. P. Weldon and William Hertrich. The fair, as well as the affair, was a most pleasant surprise. San Diego county is dotted with fertile little valleys that produce fruits second in quality to none in the state.

But we diverge. In other words, we get off the track through thinking of the fruits we sampled. We would sing of begonias, begonias second to none on earth, either grown outdoors or in. Superintendent of Parks John G. Morley drove us over to Point Loma, to see Alfred D. Robinson, the man who swipes first prizes for Barred Rock chickens at the state fair. But his chickens do not so far excel those of other breeders as his begonias surpass all others ever seen on the Pacific Coast. We literally walked through a small forest of begonias, grown under lath, the large trusses of brilliant red flowers hanging high above our heads, as we wound in and about the intricate pathways. There were begonias of every class and color, hundreds of giant plants; baskets of hanging tuberous-rooted varieties new to the world; Begonia Rex, with the largest, most highly-colored leaves ever seen by the writer and of the greatest variety known. Mr. Robinson is "in the market" for all new varieties of Rex begonias that are offered, and if he hasn't already every known variety, it is because news of the same has escaped him.

CHANGE OF DATE FOR MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Floral Association scheduled for November 21st, with Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Strauss, 4179 Palmetto Way has been postponed for two nights till November the 23rd. Miss Sessions on "Shrubs".

SEED AS PREMIUM WITH CALIFORNIA GARDEN

As announced last month Rosecroft BEGONIA seed will be given as a premium with California Garden to new subscribers only, if you are already a subscriber get a new subscription, only a small percentage of folks can undertake to grow this seed. With each package goes full directions for its culture. It can be had in Hanging Tuberous, Single Tuberous, Pink border, and White edged pink, the two last are much the easier grown.

There has also been donated by P. H. Tyler of Ocean Beach the following: Special large flowered California Poppy (it is hoped the schools of both city and county will get some of this and extra large packages will be sent to schools), Shirley poppy a wonderful mixture, Sweet peas in mixture only, and some of the Red Sunflower. The Poppies and Sweet Peas should be planted right away. This seed will be given for renewals also.

Dahlia seed from select types is also being collected but is not available yet.

PRESERVING SEEDS

The problem of preserving viable seeds in the tropical climate of Guam from harvest until the next planting season has been solved by the Federal agricultural experiment station on that island by devising a simple container made of metal or glass, so surrounded by coconut or other slowly volatile oil as to make it moisture. insect, and rat proof. Seeds free from insects and insect eggs and properly dried when placed in the tank will keep in good condition and manitain their germinating power indefinitely.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Continued from page 5

Orange Daisy and Mixed Larkspur. These are all good winter and spring bloomers and will give quick results. These seeds can also be planted in vacant parkings and will add much to the attractiveness of the surroundings.

Everything points to a big tourist crop this year, and a little concerted effort on our part will make our visitors really think that we have not "drawn the long bow" in advertising San Diego, and that this is indeed the land of "Sunshine and Flowers"!

In cases where vacant spaces and lots can be watered before planting, it is a good plan to soak ground thoroughly, plough or spade up and leave for two or three weeks to allow weed seeds to come up. Then hoe and rake down to a fine surface, plant your flower seeds and you will not be much troubled by weeds getting ahead of the flowers. However, in any case let's all get busy and work for a tidier and more beautiful City.

SOWING BEGONIA SEED

(From Begonia Culture for Amateurs, by B. C. Ravenscroft.)

The seed of the Begonia being exceedingly small—at first sight it appears more like so much brown dust or snuff than anything else—it must be sown on a very finely-sifted surface, and the seedlings be treated with the greatest care during the early stages, though after a certain stage is reached the young plants are little if at all more troublesome than any others. The chief points to be observed in the successful raising of these Begonias from seed are: (1) A genial but even temperature, a range of 65 deg. to 70 deg. being most suitable and, on the whole, better than a stronger heat, even 5 deg. less will do; (2) a moderate, even, and regular condition of moisture in the soil, which, though it ought seldom to become really wet, must not be allowed to get thoroughly dry at any time during the period of germination, or this will be effectually checked, and the sowing fail altogether; (3) a light and rich yet perfectly sweet soil, sifted very fine upon the surface, and extra well drained; (4) shade from all direct sunshine until the plants gain a certain degree of size and strength; and (5) prick off the seedlings singly as soon as ever they can be handled, and by preference while the first "rough" or proper leaf (beyond the cotyledons) is in process of formation.

After a long experience I find no other description of soil equal, for raising these Begonias or any other plants with minute seeds, nearly pure leaf-mould. This does not readily become green on the surface as peat will do, nor does it cake as both loam and sand are almost sure to do, while it contains abundance of nutriment and produces stout and healthy seedlings with plenty of active roots. It should, however, be well baked, or even partially burnt or charred before use, in order to destroy any insects or their eggs, fungoid germs, or the like.

Fill a pot (the 6 in. size is a very convenient one) or pan half-full of crocks or bricks broken small—fresh coal (not coke) cinders, or some moderately rough "ballast" (burnt clay) will do as well—and on this a thick layer of moss or rough siftings of the soil. Little more than 1 in. in depth of a mixture of leaf-mould with a fourth part each of fine loam, cocoa-nut fibre, and coarse sand, the whole well mixed and run through a ½ in. sieve, must come next, then press it gently to an even level, water well with a fine rose, and ten minutes afterwards add a bare ¼ in. of pure leaf mould that has been well baked and passed through a very fine wire or hair sieve. If after a short time it is seen that this fine surface material has not become moistened by absorption from that below, it must be lightly sprinkled with a fine rose. Now sow the seed, scattering it evenly and not too thickly over the surface, for if fresh and good nearly every grain will germinate, and when the seedlings stand very thickly they are more liable to damp off, as well as to become weak and drawn if not pricked off almost as soon as up. Being so very fine the seed should be barely covered with the merest dusting of fine soil (not sand, which soon becomes caked and green); some growers do not cover it at all. Lay a sheet of whitewashed glass, or a plain square with a piece of paper on it, over the pot or pan, and plunge, if possible, in a hot-bed at 70 deg. to 75 deg., or failing this the seed will germinate, though not quite so quickly or well, in any moderately warm house, pit, or frame. Take care to shade from sun, and examine the pots or pans daily as to moisture. When water is needed, give it very gently through a fine rose, or stand the pot or pan in water nearly up to the level of the soil; the former, if properly performed, is the better plan. Always use clean rain or soft water, with just the chill off, or at the same temperature as the plants are growing in. Remove the glass for an hour or so morning and evening, for if kept too close a kind of white mildew forms on the surface of the soil, and destroys

The

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the tiny seedlings. As soon as the seed has fairly germinated, and the young plants are in growth, the glass must be gradually removed altogether.

The sooner the seedlings can be pricked off singly after the first rough or proper leaf appears the better. This must be done into other pans or boxes, prepared much as before, placing them about 1 in. apart, or even less. This is tedious work, but it must be done, and done with care, each seedling being lifted singly, and with every bit of root uninjured, and as carefully transferred to the "store" pan. A very small, flat-pointed piece of wood (such as a label) should be used to lift the tiny plants with, another with a round blunt end (a large match will do for this) to make the holes, and a third piece cut to a very fine flat point, with a v-shaped notch in the end will be found useful to lift the seedlings with, and much better than attempting to lay hold of them with the fingers. As each pan or box is finished, water it well and place in a nice growing temperature, taking care that the soil never becomes dry. and shading carefully from the sun. Some sheets of glass laid loosely over them for the first week or so also helps the young plants to establish themselves, but they should be supported an inch or two above the rims of the pans or boxes by strips of wood, and not lie down too closely. If the seedlings are left too long in the seed-pan they are not only apt to damp off wholesale, but even if this does not occur the disturbance of the roots after they have run a little way administers a check that they do not soon recover.

As the seedlings gain size and strength, and the weather becomes warmer, let them have more air and a little sun, but not too strong; reduce the fire heat, and directly they begin to touch each other, transfer them to other boxes filled with leaf-mould, loam, and sand in a rather rough condition, and not quite so freely drained as before. This time they may be placed 1½ in. of 2 in. apart; again keep them moderately close and shaded for a time, and supposing them to have been pricked off the first time in February or the early part of March, early in May they should be removed to cold frames to be gradually hardened off, and finally plant them out, about 6 in. apart, in rich mellow soil, and an open and sunny position. This may be done at any time after all danger of even a slight frost is over, say the third or fourth week in June; I have even planted them out as late as the second or third week in July, and then obtained nice medium-sized tubers and a good many flowers.

Another plan is to pot the seedlings off singly from the store-boxes, growing them on

Continued on page 11

SHRUBS AND THEIR PLATINGS

Increase your shrub planting and reduce your lawn or so plant your shrubs when small that as they grow larger your lawn area will be reduced. Reducing the lawn in most places is a benefit, artistically and financially. As a general rule shrubs look best when their lower branches remain and the plant seems to rest upon the ground or lawn and you cannot see the main stem. The journeyman gardeners who care for lawns, generally think every spear of grass must be saved and so they trim up the shrubs beneath wherever the lower branches touch the lawn and often when they give too much shade; In time the shrubbery looks as tho' it was standing on stilts and the beauty of the plant is ruined. Some shrubs are a real necessity for every garden that one loves and especially the small and low growing sorts.

Diosma alba a "breath of heaven" desirable for its fragrant and feathery foliage and its wealth of snow white flowers.

Genista fragrans or racemosa is a most cheerful yellow February blooming shrub with a honey fragrance. Every garden should contain a few heathers, the different sorts bloom at various seasons and in several colors.

Swainsona loves a windy location and the plant is everblooming, but needs frequent pruning to keep it in good shape. There are some choice pink shades, one of a good light red and the white is of course the standard.

Solamun Rautonetti is a very superior shrub for either a low spreading or high growing shrub. Its rich dark-blue potato-like blooms are always abundant, provided not too much good care is given it.

Frequent trims and considerable dryness keeps it in good condition. It has no dead flowers nor seed pods to disfigure the foliage.

The Grevillea Thelemaniana is one other shrub always on dress parade. Evergreen, everblooming and more flowers in the winter than the summer. Butterflies, bees and the humming birds are its daily visitors.

The berried shrubs always appeal to one in the fall and early winter and this year the Orange berries, Hawthorne, Crataegus Lalandii, and the red berried Cotoneaster paunosa, are more conspicuous than ever about the city.

Of new shrubs, I am trying for the first time, Septospermum Chapmanii, its fine foliage so light and feathery is most promising and its pink flowers are said to be beautiful.

Tomassia a U. S. Gov. introduction is a very low growing ground covering shrub that I know will be a great success. There are two in the garden of Dr. Walter Rittenhouse at La Mesa. I also saw it in the Oakknoll section at Pasadena two years ago.

I have planted also, a Callitris, a fine foliaged shrub that is very promising.. You must watch these grow in my first garden at 1406 Plumosa, where I hope the January or February Floral Association will hold its regular meeting.

K. O. SESSIONS.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

THE LATHHOUSE

A Series by Alfred D. Robinson.

A Series No. 2 Interior Arrangement Etc.

I write on this head out of the experience hammered into me by making every mistake possible, and thinking on it I am surprised how little of the original plan of my lathhouse remains today, and yet I see possible improvements everywhere.

Very little in arrangement can be done with small lathhouses except to utilize all available space and in my last article I stressed the advantage of lathing the sides of small backyards so as to make the effect of space, and considering the small cost of lath construction only in rare cases is there need of constriction, therefore I let the toy lathhouse alone in this article with the emphatic statement that any kind of an one is better than none. When one builds a house it is considered good technique to get a list of what one wants in it in the way of rooms, cupboards, etc., and a floor plan is one of the first things. Now most lathhouses have just growed up inside like Topsy and they look it. It is wise to try and visualize some years ahead and it is not easy. When Miss Sessions sells you a Coralline Lucerne Begonia in a small pot the whole thing less than a foot high your mind refuses to cognize the possibility of a tree sixteen feet tall with leaves a foot long and trusses of blooms that you could hardly hide behind a picture hat and yet that is what you must try and do for you must place the grown specimen not the nursery plant.

Now for our list of wants, we must have places for low growing things, medium and tall and spreading, shady and light locations and also high and low. The object is to be able to see everything to advantage and as easily as possible, which does not mean all at one time. Certain plants must be raised up or their beauty is lost while others naturally make a carpet of themselves. From all this it follows we want beds on the level, terraces and mounds and avenues and open spaces in fact a regular landscape in miniature. Border space being the necessity, for everything should be get-at-able without pushing into the beds, one must for the area have a great deal of walk or path or space unplanted, it seems wasteful but it is really economy. I cannot advocate the method sometimes followed of high planting all round the edges with a central bed, this may create a stunning effect at first glance but after the one blow in the eye there is nothing left, none of those delightful little surprises when you turn a corner or go through an arch. The entrance must be effective but it like all features should have the feeling of "Oh come on in there is more round the corner!" A central feature wold naturally be a sitting place where the visitors sit while the owner keeps hopping up to pick dead leaves or blossoms or arrest an adventurous slug or caterpillar or pull a weed or any other of the thousand things always to be done. This can be any shape you like but for comfort it will want a canopy over it in summer. As a rule I like paths anything but straight, I dislike to see my finish or a paths finish so definitely as one does in straightaways, but for an avenue effect nothing equals the parrallel straight lines and they should have a good feature either end, a mound serves well. Wonderful avenues can be made with the tree Begonias. Before leaving the paths it should be said that every path should appear to have a legitimate object for being, that is they should lead somewhere or to something and they cause endless embarassment not to use a harsher term if they end adruptly nowhere. From an esthetic standpoint paths below the level of the beds undoubtedly are best, but such an arrangement makes difficulty in watering, the opposite would be more practical, however, if the paths are walled with cement, preferably disguised with hardpan, not abalone shells or smooth cobbles, the watering difficulty is almost overcome and now we have this little Nertera Depressa, which is not Nertera at all but something else nobody knows, we can soon get cool moss banked walks.

As to the width in walks, this is largely an individual matter but there should be a main artery capable of easily accommodating a wheelbarrow or handcart, let me stress this latter recommendation because I have neuritis in both shoulders from the wrench the cart has given me as it bumped into the hardpan edges first on one side and then the other. Don't imagine you will get along without some conveyance as the movement at times of heavy or bulky matter is inevitable. Don't make curves or turns too short in your paths, you cannot negotiate them with long things such as tall begonias, stakes, etc. For the avenue effect I now would like a narrow way, mine is comparatively wide with a two foot bed of low stuff at the foot of President Carnot on one side and Odorata Alba on the other, but this because of the necessary shortness of the planting makes the width appear as much as the height and if I had to do it again I would eliminate the low planting and get the tall stuff close enough together to make the tunnel effect which spells avenue.

For terraces and mounds I have found our native and ubiquitous hardpan very good, it is absorbent uneven a good color and generally fits in and the harder variety makes a delightful wall. In both terrace and mound

the thing to always bear in mind in building is that they must hold water, to do this the mound must be uneven and full of depressions and the terrace levels must slope back from the front. The terrace naturally wants a wall to lean against and seeing that my walls have been universally commended I must confess that they are thus satisfactory because I knew nothing about building a wall, in fact one admirer of them said. You could never get a mechanic to build such a wall, he could not build it badly enough, he would use a straight edge and a level or at any rate a trained eye." Thus did I proceed: I put up a fence of chicken wire, coarse mesh, on a curve because I had a suspicion that a curve would hold up easier than a straight, then I piled up my hardpan leaning against the wire filling in holes with cement and small pieces where necessary purposely making it as uneven as it could be and stand up, and when it was all up I went the other side and poked the cement about some through the wire and as a final touch threw the hardpan dust into the wet cement and then left it alone for a week, when I took down the chicken fence and called it a job. Remember the first requisite to qualify for wall building in a lathhouse is to know nothing about it, I am convinced my first efforts will remain my best for this reason. Experience however suggests that incorporated in the wall should be pieces of stout wire to suspend wallpockets and there is no good reason why cavities should not be arranged for planting ferns, sedums or other suitable things.

Another thing that will come in this interior planning, not necessarily at the immediate beginning, is a certain amount of rustic work. This will work in well around the central sitting or living part, making arches and the like and it too wants the blessed inexperience and natural unevenness of the rank amateur. There is one warning that must be made emphatic and that is, don't be fussy in this wall and rustic work, don't be patchy, don't work out designs in hardpan.

The next of the series will deal mostly with soil fertilizer, etc.

SOWING BEGONIA SEED

Continued from page 9

under glass, and finally either planting them out as before or shifting them on into larger pots to flower. If this is done, 2½ in. pots, or what florists term "small sixties", should be employed in the first place, and then if afterwards moved into 4½ in. pots, say, in June, they will flower beautifully during the latter part of the summer and the autumn. If very forward they may be shifted first into 4 in. pots, and subsequently into the 6 in. size (thirty-twos), but it is not well to run any risk of over-potting the seedlings the first season. Unless it is desired to grow and flower the plants in pots throughout, the potting system demands considerably more space, as well as labor, than that of growing them in boxes, and if well hardened and carefully planted out from the latter they succeed nearly or quite as well as from pots. Take care that while in small pots the plants do not get very dry at any time, as they are apt to do unless very carefully and thoroughly watered, especially when standing in a warm house, or on an open or dry staging over hot water pipes.

If the seed is sown during the latter half of January or early in February, and the plants are kept growing on steadily in a genial warmth and with plenty of moisture, they ought to be ready to prick out in boxes in March, and to be re-boxed or potted some time during April. They should then be hardened off in May, and if planted out in June many of them will, if all goes well, begin flowering early in July, and during the months of August and September will make a grand display of blossom. I have even sown the seed in March, pricking off the seedlings about the end of April and planting them out the middle of July—a month later all round —and they have still done well, and flowered beautifully in September and even October, the weather remaining mild and open. If sown later than March they cannot, however, be expected to flower the same season, but either in boxes or small pots will make nice little tubers that will flower profusely during the whole of the following summer; the objection to this plan is that they cannot be selected to color, etc., and must be employed in mixture only.

Those who have little or no heat at command may sow in May or the beginning of June, when the seed will germinate even in an unheated greenhouse, if coverd with a sheet of glass and shaded, pricking off the seedlings into boxes in July. Keep them growing as long as possible, and if practicable store and start the tiny tubers next spring in the same soil and boxes in which they grew, and all will flower abundantly the following summer. Even under this system it is advisable to remove the boxes to the open air for three or four weeks in August or September, when the plants are pretty well established, as in this way they will make much sounder, as well as larger, tubers than if kept under glass altogether; but take care to house them again before they get even a slight touch of frost.

TOADS OF SOME USE IN CURBING CERTAIN PESTS

Toads have been reputed to aid in curbing the numbers of injurious insects and other similar pests. To ascertain the facts in the case the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculaure has analyzed the contents of the stomachs of 502 common toads, and reports that while the findings regarding the choice of food are of

interest they thus far fail to demonstrate that toads are of great economic importance. Toads go constantly about their own work of gaining a livelihood, and so undoubtedly fill their proper place in nature. They are never very numerous in one locality, however, and as they can not adopt the methods of birds and traverse wide stretches of land to aid in combating abnormal local increases of crop and garden pests their influence is not strongly felt. The investigation shows that a certain portion of the toad's food is made up of injurious insects and other pests of growing plants, and that the toad performs some service in such places as greenhouses, gardens, fields of small grain. and golf courses. Any harm that toads do in the consumption of beneficial beetles and other insects useful to man is of little economic importance and does not warrant their indiscriminate destruction.

WEEDS PRODUCE DECREASED YIELDS

Bronte A. Reynolds,
Editor, California Department of Agriculture.

1. Some plants produce an enormous number of seeds.

2. The seeds of some plants are able to sprout after being buried many years in the soil.

3. Some plants are capable of storing a sufficient amount of water and plant food to enable them to mature seeds even after being pulled (purslane).

4. Some weeds can mature their seeds and scatter them before the crop is harvested (mustard, in barley); others mature their seeds at the same time as the crop and are harvested with it (dodder, in alfalfa). Often the seeds are of about the same size as those of the crop, and are difficult to separate (goosefoot, in alfalfa-.

5. Some plants have special provisions to take advantage of natural agencies in distributing their seed.

Habits of Growth.

1. Some plants are inconspicuous and are not noticed until they have become abundant (shepherd's purse). Some produce inconspicuous flowers and go to seed before they are suspected (goosefoot).

2. Some plants protect themselves by sharp spines thistles).

3. Some plants are capable of forming new plants from pieces of the old plant (Bermuda grass).

4. Some plants have creeping, underground parts (morning glory, Johnson grass).

5. Some weeds have a disagreeable odor stinkweed, Gilia squarrosa).

6. Many weeds have an unsightly appearance (cocklebur-. Some plants exude a viscid substance which stains clothing, collects dust, and gives them an ugly appearance (tarweeds).

7. Many plants are distasteful to stock and are left to occupy the ground undisturbed (horse mint).

THE UNFOUND FLOWER

In flower-seeking, . . . there are rich days and poor days, surprises and disappointment; the plant which we hailed as a rarity may prove on examination to be but a gay deceiver; and contrariwise, when we think we have come home empty-handed, it may turn out that the vasculum contains some unrecognized treasure; as when, after what seemed to be a barren day on Helvellyn, I found that I had brought back with me the Alpine saw-wort. . . .

The quest for the rare, provided that it does not make us forget that the common is often no less beautiful, or lead to that selfish acquisitiveness which is the bane of "collecting," is a foible harmless in itself and even in same cases useful, as inciting us to further activities. . . .

An old friend of mine who is of an optimistic temperament once assured me for my comfort that in the South, that elusive little annual, the mousetail, has hitherto remained undetected. So, too, with many other rarities: the list of the found may increase year by year, but that of the unfound is never exhausted.

It is well that it is so, and that satiety cannot chill the ardour of the flower-lover, but like Llysses, "always roaming with a hungry heart," he has ever before him an object for his pursuit. "Wretched is he," says Rousseau, "who has nothing left to wish for," Nor is the reward a merely figurative one, such as that of the husbandmen in the fable, who. after digging the ground in search of a buried treasure, were otherwise recompensed; for the lean days are happily interspersed with the fat days, and to the botanist there is surely no joy on earth like that of discovering a flower that is new to him; it is a thrilling event which compensates tenfold for all the failures of the past.

Very remarkable, too, is the freakishness of fortune, which often, while denying what you crave, will toss you something quite different and unlooked for: I remember how when searching vainly for the spider orchis at the foot of the Downs in Kent, I stumbled on an abundance of the "green man." Or perhaps, just at the moment when you are relinquishing the quest as hopeless, and have put it wholly from your mind, you will be startled to see the very flower that you sought . . .

As Thoreau expressed it: "What you seek in vain for, half your life, one day you come full upon, all the family at dinner."—Henry Stephens Salt, "The Call of the Wildflower."

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